

VA briefs Senate committee on Katrina aftermath



Above—Robert Lynch, M.D. (right), network director, VISN 16, and Tom Harvey (left), acting assistant secretary for congressional and legislative affairs for VA, show Chairman Larry E. Craig (middle) of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, a picture of the damage Hurricane Katrina caused on the Gulf Coast.

Robert Lynch, M.D., director, South Central VA Health Care Network, joined R. James Nicholson, secretary of veterans affairs, Jonathan B. Perlin, M.D., Ph.D., under secretary for health for veterans affairs, and Tim S. McClain, veterans affairs general counsel, Thursday, November 10, to brief the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on the efforts VA is undertaking to reestablish services and rebuild VA facilities along the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

“Dr. Lynch was VA’s ‘man in charge’ on the ground in the Gulf,” said Chairman Larry E. Craig of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, during his opening statement. “He and his staff worked countless hours for the good of thousands of our veterans. Dr. Lynch, I hope you know how proud we all are of your efforts and those of your staff. You lead a truly remarkable group of individuals.”

Although not members of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, Mississippi Senators Trent Lott and Thad Cochran and Louisiana Senators Mary Landrieu and David Vitter were invited to attend.

The hearing is available for viewing at <http://veterans.senate.gov>. It requires Real Player to view.

Air Force Surgeon General visits VA Gulf Coast



Richard Baltz (right), acting director, VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System, shakes hands with Lt. General (Dr.) George Peach Taylor, Jr. (left), Surgeon General of the Air Force on his recent trip to Biloxi. Lt. General Taylor was given a briefing on the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and VA Gulf Coast’s plans for the future.

VA’s use of electronic medical records praised

EMR Advisor, a newsletter published by National Health Information, LLC, of Atlanta, Georgia, recently featured an article on VISN 16’s use of electronic medical records and the benefit of having these records during Hurricane Katrina. To see the complete article, log on to vaww.visn16.med.va.gov and click on EMR Advisor.

Application for reassignment

New Orleans VA employees interested in working at the Slidell VA Outpatient Clinic should complete an application for reassignment. The application can be found on the VISN 16 Web site, www.visn16.med.va.gov.

Completed applications are due through email to Jamie.buth@med.va.gov or faxed to (504) 589-5918 by 5 p.m. CST, Friday, November 18, 2005.

Two New Orleans VA employees urged to contact VA

Joseph Epps and Lionel Washington, New Orleans VA employees should contact VA at (601) 420-1984 as soon as possible.

About After the Storm

The *After the Storm* newsletter is a publication produced by the South Central VA Health Care Network in an effort to supply updated information to those affected by Hurricane Katrina as we continue to recover from this devastating storm.

This newsletter will be published on a recurring basis. For more information about the publication or to provide story ideas or information, call April Smith, writer/editor, VISN 16, at 601-364-7902.

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